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JOURNAL

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Thursday - 18 May 1972

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[] Ed Braswell, Chief Counsel, Senate Armed Services Committee, called the first thing this morning in connection with the Senate's action last night in approving Senator Bellmon's amendment to section 504(a) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act of 1972 (S. 3526) exempting the Department of Agriculture from this section. Braswell said the Bellmon amendment was brought up without prior notice and since Senator Fulbright has indicated he would fight an amendment to delete all of section 504(a) Braswell was going ahead with the specific exemption for CIA. He asked us to provide him with a letter to the Chairman signed by the Director which could be used by Senator Stennis on the floor indicating the Director was seriously concerned about the amendment, pointing out that overseas personnel have already been cut by 20 percent since 1967, and that further cuts would impair activities vital to the national security. Such a letter was prepared, signed by the Director, and delivered to Braswell by mid-morning.

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In discussing the personnel cut provision with Messrs. Maury and [] Braswell expressed exasperation with the White House in not having Senators on the floor to follow the legislation and coordinate the Administration's efforts. He made it clear he did not feel this was the responsibility either of Senator Stennis or himself. Braswell said he would ask Senator Stennis to submit the amendment for an Agency exemption today.

We discussed several current developments with Braswell and advised him that reports that mine sweepers were clearing Haiphong Harbor and vessels had left the port were inaccurate but stemmed from the movement of a German ship from one berth to another within the harbor area.

Braswell said he did not know how much it would affect the Agency but it was fairly clear that developments would be moving rapidly on SALT.

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2. [] Messrs. Maury and [] lunched with Bill Woodruff, Senate Appropriations Committee staff, and discussed a number of current topics and briefed him on the facts pertaining to erroneous reports that mines are being cleared from Haiphong Harbor.

Woodruff asked us to provide Senator Ellender with multiple copies of a picture of interest to the Senator.

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7. [] Met with Senator Milton Young whom I briefed on recent developments regarding Indochina, including merchant ship movements and the Soviet and Chinese propaganda line; latest information on Soviet ICBM development; and demonstrations of Soviet military support for Egypt.

I called the Senator's attention to our problems with certain pending legislation, including Foreign Relations Committee amendments to the Foreign Relations Authorization Act (S. 3526). I also commented on some recent malicious allegations about the Agency in the press. The Senator said he would be glad to say something about this if we thought it useful, and I said we might take him up on this.

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8. [] Charles Ablard, General Counsel USIA, called to say Senator Howard Baker had introduced a motion to strike the amendment to the Foreign Relations Authorization Act (S. 3526) dealing with dissemination of information by Federal agencies. I told Ablard of our continuing concern over another amendment to this bill, calling for a ten percent personnel cut in the overseas strength of the Agency and other departments. I complained that Senator Bellmon had "jumped the gun" by introducing an amendment exempting the Department of Agriculture from this provision, thus disrupting what I thought had been our coordinated plan. Ablard said Bellmon would have been glad to include other agencies in his amendment but received no support from the White House or anyone else. He commented that it might still not be too late to get Bellmon to introduce a substitute amendment except Bellmon planned to be out of town for the next several days. I said that in view of the present situation we felt we had to move quickly and, in response to a request from Chairman Stennis, had already provided him with backup material for an Agency exemption. However I said if the provision in question could be struck entirely, that would suit us very well. I said we had put our case in the hands of Stennis and it was up to him as to how to handle it.

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JOHN M. MAURY
Legislative Counsel

cc:
O/DDCI

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[] Mr. Clarke
Mr. Houston Mr. Thuermer
DDI DDS DDS&T
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